

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) are submitted in the Appendix, attached hereto, to replace the previous drawings which were of poor quality. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10. Applicants have cancelled claims 3, 8, 9 and 11-16. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 9.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,564,234 to Vermeulen.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the amendments to claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 1 to describe the decorative structure of the invention with greater particularity. As stated in paragraph [0026] of the specification, the decorative structure provides a canopy-like visual to a space in which it is suspended which can be easily installed and reconfigured in order to provide a different visual or aesthetic impact. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to define with greater specificity a “suspended” decorative structure. More specifically, in addition to a first

cable which cooperates with the biasing members to maintain the panel in a flexed configuration, the decorative structure is now required to include second and third cables which are attached to a respective biasing member at one end and to a wall or overhead ceiling at the other end. In effect, these added features require the panel to be suspended within the space as required in the specification and in amended claim 1.

Applicants submit that Vermeulen's framework and foil covering structure is not suspended from a wall or overhead ceiling as required by claim 1. In contrast, Vermeulen's framework and foil covering structure is an element of the claimed "overhead ceiling" from which Applicants decorative structure could be suspended.

Applicants note that support for the term "suspended decorative structure" can be found in at least paragraph [0005] of the specification. Support for the features of attaching second and third cables to the panel/biasing elements and the wall or ceiling within a space can be found in at least paragraph [0007] of the specification.

For the reasons set forth above, independent claim 1, and all claims which depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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APPENDIX

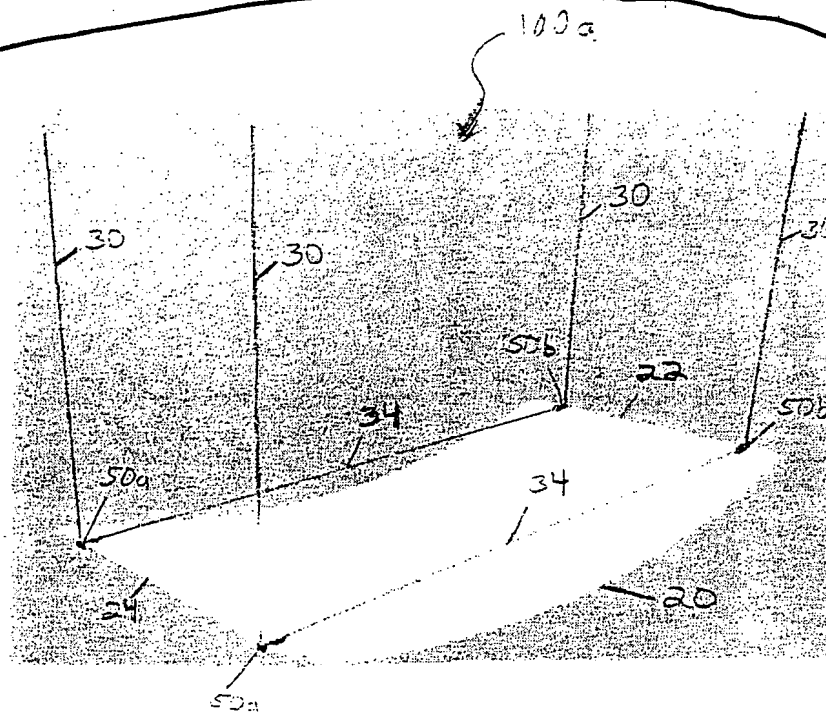


Fig 1

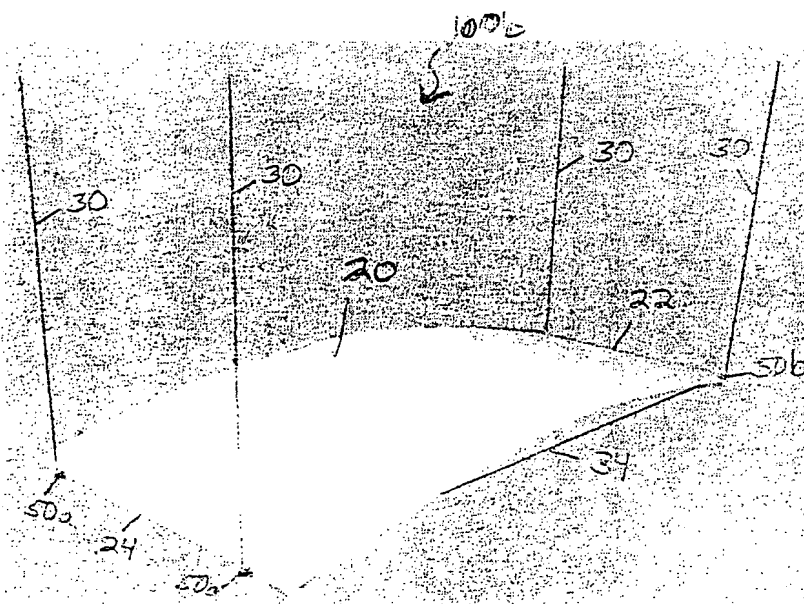


Fig 2

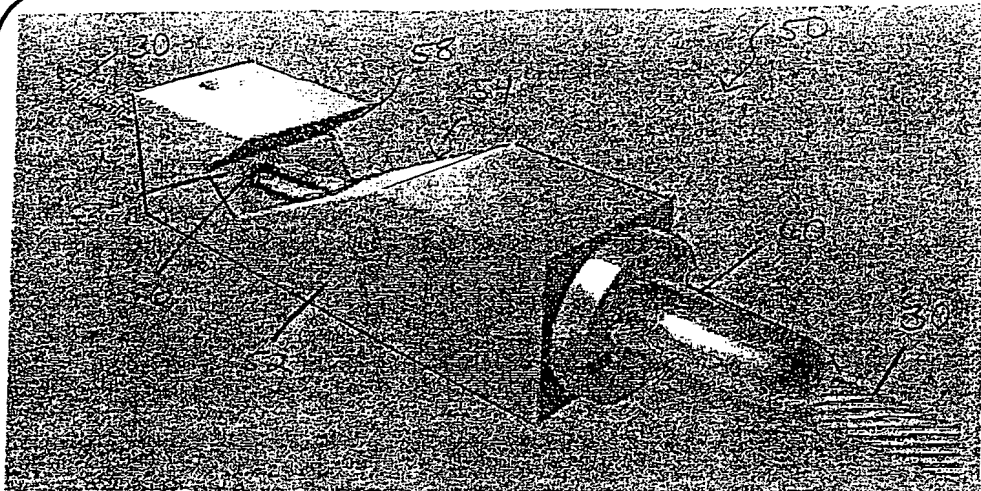


Fig. 3

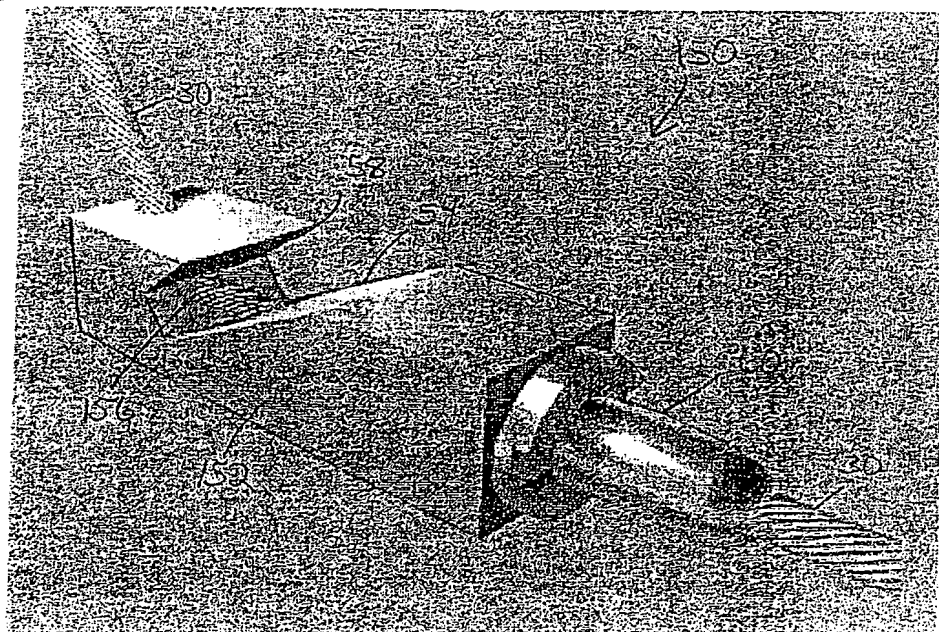


Fig. 4

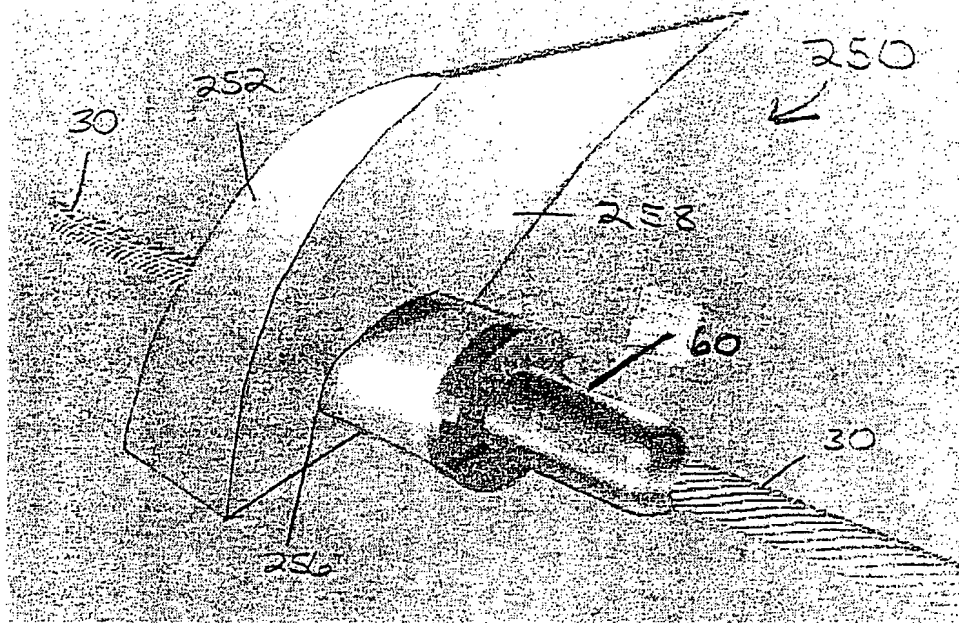


Fig 5

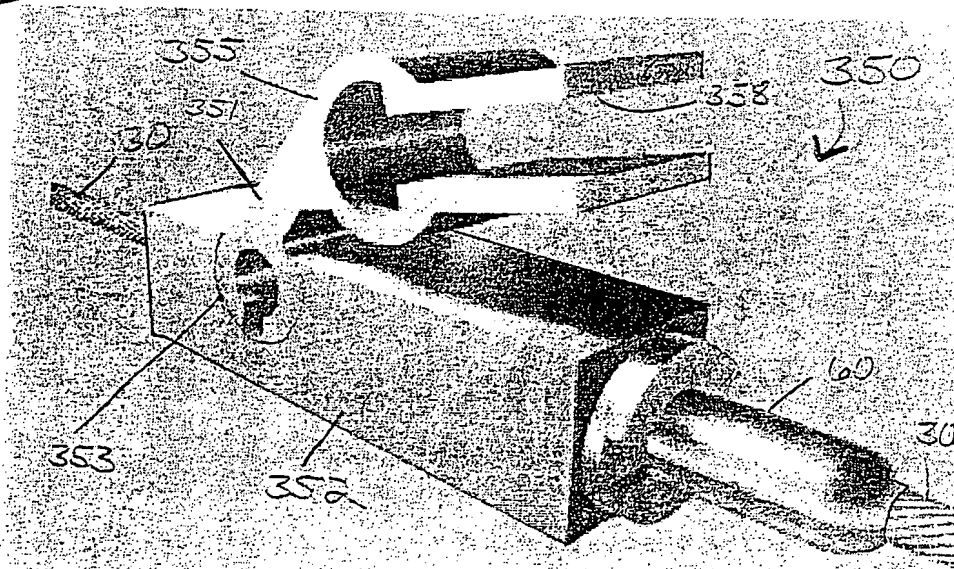


Fig 6

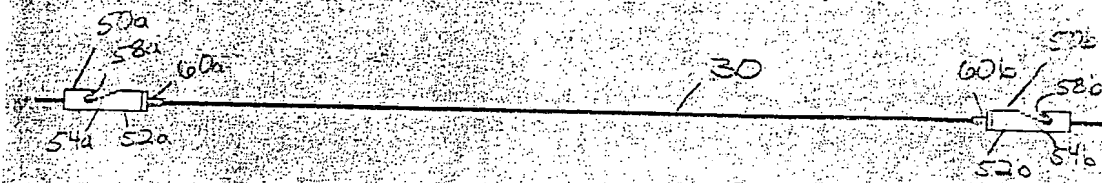


Fig 7



Fig 8

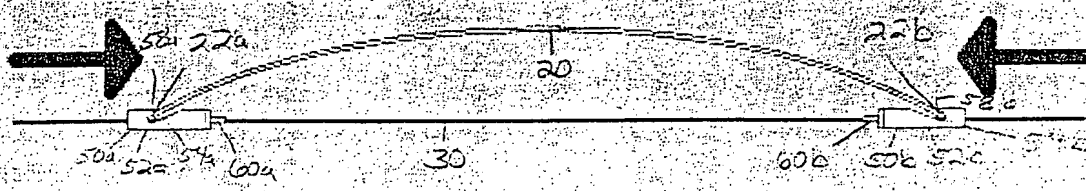


Fig 9

